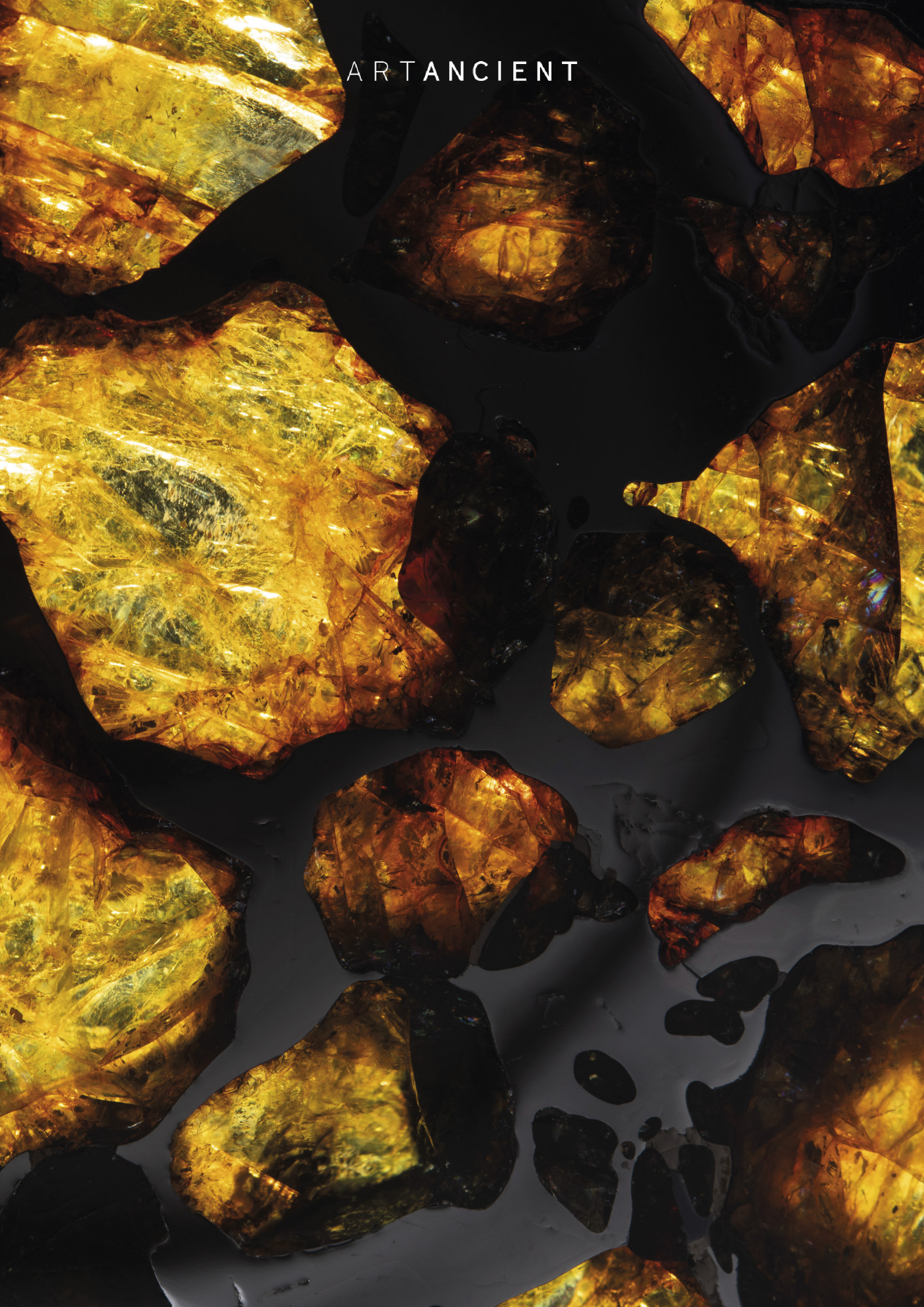
ARTANCIENT

IMILAC METEORITE

Stony-iron, Pallasite - PMG
Circa 4.5 billion y/o
Height: 25 cm
Weight: 372 g

PROVENANCE

Discovered in the Atacama Desert, Chile, in 1822.

A complete cross section of one of the most beautiful meteorites known, displaying shimmering, translucent olivine and peridot gems, embedded in an iron-nickel metallic matrix.

A Messenger from Space

The magnificent honeycomb pattern shown on the present specimen is characteristic of pallasite meteorites, of which Imilac is one of the finest. It was found in 1822 in the Atacama Desert – the most arid place on Earth – and is one of the most highly coveted pallasites thanks to its ethereal beauty and particularly high concentration in olivine.

Pallasites are extremely rare, comprising less than 0.2% of known falls. These stony-irons formed at the very beginning of our solar system, fragments of an asteroid which differentiated, like our own planet, into a mantle and a core. Originating from the transitional core-mantle boundary, they were set free by a large collision which propelled them out of the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and into an Earth-bound orbit. As well as being extraordinarily beautiful they are scientifically invaluable, helping us to understand the formation and structure of our planet, whose core is made of the same iron and nickel.

1 Imilac, Atacama Desert, Chile.

‘These primitive rocks are messengers from outer space that carry with them precious secrets about the formation of our solar system…’

R. Scorzelli, *Meteorites: Messengers from the Outer Space*, 2008